



10/807152

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re U.S. Patent Application

DAVID NIGEL ARMSTRONG

Patent Number: 7,093,655 B2

Issued: August 22, 2006

For: METHOD FOR THE RECOVERY OF  
HYDROCARBONS FROM HYDRATES

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Certificate**  
AUG 29 2006  
**of Correction**

Sir:

Applicant requests that a Certificate of Correction be issued under 37 C.F.R. 1.322 to correct the error listed on the attached form.

The listed error is an omission on the part of the Patent Office. Evidence supporting this is submitted in the form of:

- (A) copy of executed declaration;
- (B) copy of title page of US2004/0198611 A1; and
- (C) Copy of priority acknowledgment dated July 11, 2006.

Respectfully submitted,  
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

By:

  
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Date: August 25, 2006

AUG 29 2006

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO. : 7,093,655 B2

DATED : August 22, 2006

INVENTOR(S) : Stephen Atkinson

It is certified that an error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

On the title page, under the entry for (63), insert:

[30] Foreign Application Priority Data  
September 28, 2001 [GB] United Kingdom . . . 0123409.5

Mailing address of sender:

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Patent No. 7,093,655

No. of add'l copies  
@ .30 per page



4000  
1000

## COMBINED DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

This declaration is of the following type:

- ☐ original
- ☐ design
- ☐ supplemental
- ☐ national stage of PCT
- ☐ divisional
- ☐ continuation
- ☒ continuation-in-part (CIP)

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed for and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

### METHOD FOR THE RECOVERY OF HYDROCARBONS FROM HYDRATES

the specification of which

- ☒ is attached hereto
- ☐ was filed on \_\_\_\_\_, as  
Application No. \_\_\_\_\_  
and was amended on \_\_\_\_\_  
(if applicable)
- ☐ was described and claimed in PCT International Application No. \_\_\_\_\_  
filed on \_\_\_\_\_ and as amended under PCT Article 19 on \_\_\_\_\_ (if any).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any Amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56.

- ☐ In compliance with this duty there is attached an Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR 1.97.

AUG 29 1999

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, § 119, of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

- ☐ no such applications have been filed  
☒ such applications have been filed as follows.

**Prior Foreign Application(s)**

<u>0123409.5</u> (Number)	<u>UK</u> (Country)	<u>28 September 2001</u> (day/month/year filed)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes No
<u>                    </u> (Number)	<u>                    </u> (Country)	<u>                    </u> (day/month/year filed)	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes No

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below:

<u>                                    </u> (Application Number)	<u>                                    </u> (Filing Date)
<u>                                    </u> (Application Number)	<u>                                    </u> (Filing Date)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s) listed below, and insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

<u>PCT/GB02/04382</u> (Application No.)	<u>27 September 2002</u> (Filing Date)	<u>Pending</u> (patented, pending, abandoned)
<u>                                    </u> (Application No.)	<u>                                    </u> (Filing Date)	<u>                                    </u> (patented, pending, abandoned)
<u>                                    </u> (Application No.)	<u>                                    </u> (Filing Date)	<u>                                    </u> (patented, pending, abandoned)

**POWER OF ATTORNEY:** As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agents to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith.

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I hereby declare all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of sole or first inventor Stephen ATKINSON

Inventor's signature 

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US 20040198611A1

(19) **United States**(12) **Patent Application Publication** (10) Pub. No.: **US 2004/0198611 A1****Atkinson**(43) Pub. Date: **Oct. 7, 2004**(54) **METHOD FOR THE RECOVERY OF  
HYDROCARBONS FROM HYDRATES**

(52) U.S. Cl. .... 507/100

(76) Inventor: **Stephen Atkinson, Wassenaar (NL)**(57) **ABSTRACT**

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A method for recovering hydrocarbon trapped in a hydrate formation, comprising the steps of

(21) Appl. No.: **10/807,152**

(a) contacting the hydrate formation with an aqueous solution comprising from 10% to 75% by weight of a salt such as potassium formate or acetate salt to liberate hydrocarbon from the hydrate formation and producing a mixture of hydrocarbon and water vapour;

(22) Filed: **Mar. 24, 2004**

(b) transporting the hydrocarbon/water vapour mixture and the aqueous solution to a separator, whereby the said aqueous solution absorbs water vapour from the mixture during the transportation step, to form a more dilute aqueous solution of the alkali metal salt, thereby inhibiting formation of hydrocarbon hydrates;

**Related U.S. Application Data**

(63) Continuation-in-part of application No. PCT/GB02/04382, filed on Sep. 27, 2002.

(30) **Foreign Application Priority Data**

Sep. 28, 2001 (GB) ..... 0123409.5

(c) separating hydrocarbon from said dilute aqueous solution;

**Publication Classification**(51) Int. Cl.<sup>7</sup> ..... C09K 7/02

(d) regenerating the aqueous solution of step (a) by heating said dilute aqueous solution to remove absorbed water vapour; and

(f) recycling the regenerated aqueous solution to step (a).

AUG 29 2004



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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United States Patent and Trademark Office  
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www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/807,152	03/24/2004	Stephen Atkinson	ATKI3001	6460
23364	7590	07/11/2006		
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC 625 SLATERS LANE FOURTH FLOOR ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
			EXAMINER SUCHFIELD, GEORGE A	
			ART UNIT 3676	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 07/11/2006

## PRIORITY ACKNOWLEDGMENT

- ☐ 1. Receipt is acknowledged of priority papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119. The papers have been placed of record in the file.
- ☒ 2. Applicant's claim for priority, based on papers filed in parent Application Number PCT/6302/04382 submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119, is acknowledged.
- ☐ 3. The priority papers, submitted \_\_\_\_\_, after payment of the issue fee are
- ☐ acknowledged  
While the priority claim or certified copy filed will be placed in the file record, neither will be reviewed and the patent when published will not include the priority claim.  
See 37 CFR 1.55(a)(2).
- ☐ not acknowledged since the processing fee in 37 CFR 1.17(i) has not been received.
- ☐ 4. For utility and plant applications filed on or after November 29, 2000, the priority claim is not entered because the claim was not presented within the time limit required by 37 CFR 1.55(a)(1). A petition to accept a delayed claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a) - (d) or (f), or 365(a) may be filed. See 37 CFR 1.55(c) and MPEP 201.14(a).

*Sharon Corcoran*  
Manager, Publishing Division  
Office of Patent Publication  
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AUG 29 2006